Great Brit.-Paper-Manufact. K 522.e. 86

The CASE *of the Manufacturers of* PAPER, *the* STATIONERS PRINTERS, *&c. of this Kingdom, relating to ſeveral Duties on Paper and Printing, now Voted in the Houſe.*

Humbly repreſented to the Honourable Houſe of COMMONS.

AS it has always been the peculiar Care of the Parliament of *Britain*, to ſupport and encourage our own People, as well in their Antient Manufactures, as in erecting new Manufactures for the employing our own Poor, and preventing the Exportation of our Money, to purchaſe ſuch Goods from Abroad; ſo the Manufacture of Paper in *England* has been particularly encouraged by Parliament, in that when a Duty was laid on it once before in the late King *William*'s Time, it was thought fit afterwards by the Parliament to be diſcontinu'd, leſt the Making of Paper ſhould be entirely loſt to the Nation, the ſaid Manufacture not being able to bear it.

But, We humbly repreſent, That now the ſaid Manufactures, are not only intended to be charged with a heavy Duty more than they are able to pay, but the Conſumption of thoſe Sorts of Papers, particularly made in *England*, is in a great meaſure prevented, by Three other Taxes, *viz.* on *Cards*, *Almanacks*, and on printing Small Paper Pamphlets, *&c*, which not only are heavy upon the Goods, but amount to an abſolute Stop to the Making, and conſequently the Manufacture of Paper will be intirely loſt as before.

The Tax upon *Cards* has already evidenc'd the Truth of this, by the Deficiency of that Duty, which we humbly refer to: And as the new Tax upon *News-Papers* and *Pamphlets*, now under Conſideration, ſeems rather probable, *as we conceive*, wholly to ſuppreſs the printing the ſaid *News-Papers* and *Pamphlets*, than to raiſe any great Sum by the Tax charged on them, it muſt entirely ruin the many chargeable Paper-Works erected in *England*, and take away the Livelyhood and Employment of many Thouſand Families, now maintained by thoſe Works; ſeeing the *Engliſh* Paper-Works are principally employed, in making thoſe ordinary and low priz'd Papers, which are only proper for printing *Small Tracts*, ſuch as *News-Papers*, *Pamphlets*, and all Sorts of *ſtitched Books*; nor are they yet arrived to ſuch Perfection, though Daily improving, as to make Fine or Large Papers for greater Works, in any great Quantities.

We humbly repreſent, That the Tax upon News-Papers and Pamphlets, can be no leſs than an entire ſuppreſſing the printing thereof; ſince the intended Duty of Two-Pence *per* Sheet on every Pamphlet, with near 30 *per Cent.* additional Duty, upon all low priced *Engliſh* Papers, amounting to Four Pound Ten Shillings Tax upon each Ream of Paper, of the Value of Five Shillings, can never be borne by the *Authors* or *Printers*, nor will the Conſumption of ſuch ſmall Tracts, *which are now vendible only by the Cheapneſs*, permit any Author or Printer to adventure on the printing thereof.

We humbly conceive it cannot be reaſonable to think, that as many of every Paper will be ſold as formerly, though double Price muſt be given: For as the Dearneſs of every thing leſſens the Conſumption, ſo this Tax lying heavy upon ſo trifling a Value, it muſt render the Sale of moſt of the Papers impracticable, except in ſuch ſmall Quantities, as that no Man can venture to run the Riſque of printing them, which will have the ſame effect upon the Paper Trade as above, to the entire Ruin of the *Engliſh* Manufactures as aforeſaid, and loſs of the Employment of many Thouſand poor Families.

Therefore, 'tis humbly conceived, if this Honourable Houſe ſhall think fit, to lay ſuch a Duty on all News-Papers and Pamphlets, as by the *Votes* is intended; all ſuch Papers muſt ſink of courſe, which will not only fruſtrate the Deſign of raiſing any Money by them, but take off one half, if not more, of the Duty that would be otherwiſe raiſed by the Conſumption of Paper, uſed in the printing the aforeſaid Papers and Pamphlets. So that what is given to the Fund in one part of the Act, is taken away in another, by prohibiting *in Effect* the Conſumption of the Commodity, upon which the Money is to be raiſed.

We humbly repreſent, That ſo great a Tax *without Exception*, upon all ſmall Tracts or Pamphlets, will entirely ſuppreſs and diſcourage the ſpreading of divers Religious *Manuals*, *Books of Devotion Inſtruction*, *&c.* which in all Ages have been thought needful to be kept cheap for the uſe of poor Families, who cannot afford to ſend their Children to School; by which Chriſtian Knowledge is ſpread through the Countries, and which are often by Charitable People diſpoſed *Gratis* among the Poor, ſuch as *Primmers*, *Catechiſms*, *Prayer-Books*, *Pſalm-Books*, *Sermons*, and the like, which by this Tax will be very unhappily ſtopped, and which it is humbly repreſented, will in great meaſure, prevent the Propagation of the Chriſtian Religion, and the Inſtruction of the Poor in this Nation.

All which is humbly ſubmitted to this Honourable Houſe.

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